

SEE MORE JANUARY EVENTS ANY DATES LISTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER MAY BE CHANGED OR CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 CONCERNS

For a list of events, please visit www.waco-texas.com and click on the Calendar icon.

CITY OF WACO HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Friday, January 1, 2021:

New Year Holiday, the City offices will be closed.

The Solid Waste Offices, Cobbs Recycling Center and Landfill will be closed.

Friday's trash will be collected on Wednesday, December 30.

Waco Transit System, Cameron Park Zoo, all Waco Libraries, Waco Mammoth National Monument and Texas Ranger Hall of Fame will be closed in observance of the New Year holiday.

Cottonwood Creek Golf Course will be open.

Monday, January 18, 2021:

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, the City offices will be closed.

The Solid Waste Offices, Cobbs Recycling Center will be closed. The Landfill will be closed to the public, but will accept franchise haulers until 4:30 p.m.

Monday's trash will be collected on Wednesday, January 20.

All Waco libraries will be closed in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Waco Transit System will run as usual.

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

Please check the Neighborhood Associations websites or social media outlets for the latest information.

GET YOUR 2021 SOLID WASTE CALENDAR NOW!

Never miss your waste collection day again! City of Waco Solid Waste Services launched its mobile app, Waco Curbside Services, in June 2020 to make it even easier for residents to stay connected about waste and recycling collection programs.

Residents can download our mobile app Waco Curbside Services at <http://www.waco-texas.com/carts>. It will give direct links to the Apple and Android stores for download. (Or you can search 'Waco curbside'.) In the mobile app, you'll find the garbage, recycling, and special pickup collection schedule specific to your house address. The mobile app can also remind you of your collection day, so you'll never forget again!

The 2021 Calendar is already on the app so no need to print a calendar! Also in the mobile app, you can search the "What Goes Where" tool to find out if a material can be recycled or disposed. If you don't have an Apple or Android smartphone, you can also visit our website Waco-texas.com and search your home address in our "My Schedule" tool. You can then:

- Sign up for waste collection reminders by email, phone call, or text message.
- Download your collection schedule into your iCal, Google calendar or Microsoft Outlook calendar.
- Print your collection schedule.

For more information, please call Waco Solid Waste Services Customer Service (254) 299-2612 Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Para informacion en Espanol - (254) 299-2612.



January 2021

CITY LIMITS newsletter

Wishing You
a Happy and Prosperous
New Year

WAYS TO PROTECT PETS THIS WINTER

Keep pets sheltered

- Keep your pets inside with you. Under no circumstances should pets be left outdoors, even if they roam outside during other seasons. Dogs are happiest when taken out frequently for walks and exercise, but kept inside the rest of the time. Don't leave pets outdoors when the temperature drops.
- If your dog is outdoors much of the day, they must be protected by a dry, draft-free shelter that is large enough for them to move comfortably, but small enough to hold in body heat. The floor should be raised a few inches from the ground and covered with cedar shavings or straw. The doorway should be covered with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.
- Pets who are outdoors need more food in the winter because keeping warm depletes energy. Routinely check your pets water dish to make certain the water is fresh and unfrozen. Use plastic bowls for food and water; when the temperature is low, your pets tongue can stick and freeze to metal.

Bundle up, wipe down

- No matter what the temperature is, windchill can threaten a pets life. Exposed skin on noses, ears and paw pads are at risk for frostbite and hypothermia during extreme cold.
- Rock salt and other chemicals used to melt snow/ice can irritate your pets feet. Wipe all paws with a damp towel before your pet licks them and irritates their mouth.

Remove common poisons

- Antifreeze is a deadly poison, but it has a sweet taste that may

attract animals and children. Wipe up any antifreeze spills immediately and keep it, like

all household chemicals, out of reach. Coolants and antifreeze made with propylene glycol are less toxic to pets, wildlife and family. Dogs are at particular risk of salt poisoning in winter due to the rock salt used in many areas. Store de-icing salt in a safe place and wipe your dog's paws, even after short walks. If your dog ingests rock salt, call a veterinarian immediately.

Protect outdoor animals

- If there are outdoor cats, remember that they need protection as well as food and water. It's easy to give them a hand.
- Cars are one of many hazards to small animals—warm engines in parked cars attract cats and small wildlife, who may crawl up under the hood. To avoid injuring any hidden animals, bang on your cars hood to scare them away before starting your engine.

If you encounter a pet left in the cold, politely let the owner know you're concerned. If someone you raise these concerns with responds poorly or continues to neglect their animals, contact Waco Animal Services at 254-750-1765.



NEW YEAR'S EVE "SAFE RIDE HOME" PROGRAM

Need a designated driver for you or your group this New Year's Eve? Waco Transit System's free "Safe Ride Home" program has you covered! Call 254-



750-1620 to book your free ride to and from your New Year's Eve destination. Rides must be within the Waco urbanized area and occur between the hours of 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. Advance reservations preferred, with limited same-day availability. Reservation line opens December 1, 2020.

CAMERON PARK ZOO EDUCATION PROGRAMS

VIRTUAL

"Zoom" Mobile

Bring one of our animal ambassadors into your classroom via Zoom

Virtual Encounters

Get up close and personal with one of our rhinos, giant tortoises, or giraffes with an online encounter



ONSITE

Self Guided Scavenger Hunt

Explore the zoo with a personalized scavenger hunt that you can on your phone! Using your phone will allow your group to safely distance from others while learning more about animals

Animal Presentations

Join us for a closer look at our animal ambassadors with a private encounter

AFTER HOURS

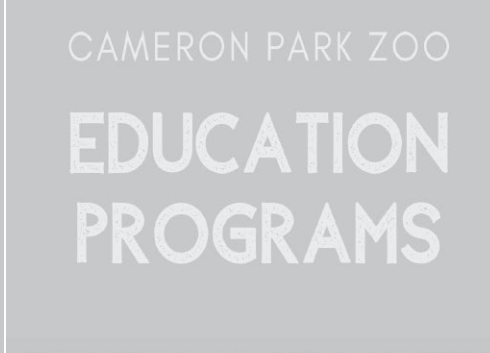
Wild Nights

Ever wonder what the zoo is like at night? With this program you can see first hand while having the zoo to yourself

Snoozes

Spend the night at the zoo while learning more about what it takes to run a zoo

Visit our website for more information and to book your program today!



CAMERONPARKZOO.COM
/EDUCATION/

CITY OF WACO CAREERS

JOIN OUR TEAM

The City of Waco offers a competitive salary based on qualifications and experience. Our comprehensive benefit package includes a retirement program with Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS) that guarantees a monthly annuity for your life, longevity pay, sick leave, paid vacation and holiday time.

To view our current job openings and to apply visit:
www.workforwaco.com

The City of Waco is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

work for
WACO
impact the future

2021
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

HEALTHY WOMEN & CHILDREN COALITION

January is National Cervical Cancer Awareness Month! Did you know that you can prevent cervical cancer by receiving the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine? Doctors recommend that both men and women should receive this vaccine as early as 9 years old. If you have not received the vaccine yet, it can be administered and be effective if received up to the age of 45. In addition to preventing cervical cancer with the HPV vaccine, pap smears can also help detect pre-cancer, or changes to your cervical cells that may lead to cervical cancer and help identify cervical cancer in the early stages.

Some risk factors that may increase your chances of developing cervical cancer are having multiple sexual partners, other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), or smoking regularly. Although there are no symptoms during the early stages of cervical cancer, symptoms of more advanced cervical cancer include vaginal bleeding after intercourse, foul vaginal odor, or pelvic pain during intercourse.

If you have not received the HPV vaccine or had a pap smear in the past 3 years, contact your doctor for more information and schedule an appointment to reduce your risk of cervical cancer. Local healthcare facilities including Family Health Center, Baylor Scott & White, and Ascension Providence provide HPV vaccinations and pap smear testing. In addition, the Waco McLennan County Public Health District provides HPV vaccinations. Make receiving your HPV vaccine and pap smear one of your New Year's resolutions and be one step closer to living a healthier life! Lastly, please visit the Mayo Clinic online for more resources and information.



JOIN THE WACO POWER SWITCH

Find out if you can save money on your electric bills

We know that many people are still overpaying for their electricity. So, with the approval of the City Council, the City of Waco is working with iChoosr to help our residents save money on their electric bills with the Waco Power Switch.

Those who have already switched with other Power Switch Programs have saved an average of approximately \$450 per year on their energy bills. The more people who take part, the greater the chances are of obtaining a competitive energy rate. There's no fee to participate or obligation to switch.

Register at www.texaspowerswitch.com/waco – it only takes a few minutes. You'll receive a personal offer email by February 2021. If you decide to accept the offer, the Waco Power Switch will take care of the entire switch. If you decide it doesn't work for you, simply ignore it – there is no obligation.

Questions? Call 1-833-376-2077 or email texaspowerswitch@ichoosr.com for more information.



WACO CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The next academy is scheduled to begin Thursday, January 21, 2021. Classes are held each Thursday from 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. for 12 weeks. Location TBD (virtually or in-person). Applicants must be 18 years old or older.

Deadline for applications is Friday, January 15, 2021 at 5 p.m. To apply, visit the City of Waco website for the on-line application. For more information, contact Candice Ortiz at candiceo@wacotx.gov or (254) 750-1764.

The Waco Citizens Police Academy started in 1991. This program is designed to give citizens a working knowledge of the Waco Police Department and raises citizens awareness. It's a 12 week course held on Thursdays from 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Two sessions are conducted per year; one in the spring and one in the fall. Class topics may include police recruiting, traffic stops, SWAT, police negotiations, K-9, crime scene, crime prevention, dispatch, active shooter, drug awareness, family violence, crimes against children, and more. Instruction consists of lectures and some hands-on training. Applicants are subject to a criminal background investigation, prior to being accepted into the academy. Graduates of the Citizens Police Academy are eligible to join the Waco Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association. The main goal of this organization is to enhance relations between the community and the police force. The group meets the second Tuesday of each month.



SIMPLE TIPS FOR DEALING WITH FALLEN LEAVES

Here are some tips for fallen leaves:

- Put the leaves in your green yard waste cart for separate collection. The yard waste cart is collected every other week during "green weeks" on your trash day.
- Leaves can also be put in paper bags (not plastic) for curbside collection during green weeks.
- Please do not put out more than 20 paper bags at the curb at a time.

- Plastic bags on the ground will not be collected.
- Paper yard waste bags are available for purchase at retail stores.
- Mowing: a light covering of leaves can be mowed, simply leaving the shredded leaves in place.
- Mulching: a mower with a bag attachment provides a fast and easy way to shred and collect the leaves for composting and soil improvement.
- Compost your yard waste, include grass clippings and leaves.
- Soil Improvement: leaves may be collected and tilled directly into garden and flower bed soils.

Only rain should go into the storm drain because the drains lead to creeks, streams, the Brazos River or Lake Waco! Leaves and grass clippings do not belong in our storm drains and should not be blown into the street.